

**Testimony of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society before the DC Historic Preservation
Review Board August 4, 2016
507 8th Street, SE HPA 16-518**

My name is Beth Purcell and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's Historic Preservation Committee. Thank you for letting us share our views on this project.

The applicant proposes to rehabilitate this two-story contributing commercial brick building, and add a new third and fourth story, for apartments. The addition reflects the fenestration pattern of the first two stories, and has attractive articulation on the side of the building. We would suggest a different color brick for the addition.

Our principal concern is the height and massing of the proposed addition. The applicant has met with Barracks Row Main Street, and the ANC, and neighbors, to address concerns about trash, noise, and odors, and has modified plans in response to their comments. The applicant has also met with the Historic Preservation Office. HPRB's guidelines state that a rooftop addition, such as this, to a historic building should be located far enough behind the existing cornice to be hidden from view by pedestrians on the street. *Additions to Historic Buildings*, 13. In recent cases, 418-426 C Street, NE (HPA 15-150) and 146 13th Street, SE (HPA 15-127), HPRB has upheld this rule prohibiting additions visible from public space. This rule is particularly important in preserving Capitol Hill's saw-tooth skyline on our commercial streets, including 8th Street, SE. A significant portion of the fourth story would be visible from across 8th Street, SE, and from E Street, SE, (according to the applicant's sightline study) and therefore would alter the skyline, in much the same way as a popup. The plans indicate that the fourth story is visible from across 8th Street. For this reason, we agree with the staff report and believe that at this time this project is not compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

Thank you for considering our comments.